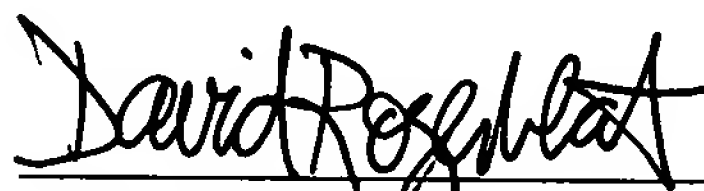


Additionally, the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Denlinger et al. in view of Shinozaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,244,897), is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by, nor obvious over these references, for the above-stated reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David Rozenblat  
Registration No. 47,044  
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200